



**Airport Management
Council of Ontario**



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The Airport Environment and You

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The Airport Environment and You

From the Desk of the CEO

Up Next at AMCO

Happy New Year to all of AMCO’s members, industry partners and readers of the Ezine. We are already a month into 2023 and time seems to be flying by. In fact, I recently visited and registered Scotty for school this fall – talk about time flying by! When one thinks about school, it is inevitably tied to learning. What begins as a journey in kindergarten never really comes to an end. We are all life long learners – whether that be through formal education, or through learning from one another AMCO is an avenue to continue your path of knowledge.

As always, AMCO will be hosting training courses throughout the year. We have had many suggestions for courses including Wildlife, OLS, SMS and others, but we are always looking for options – we know that if several ask for the same course it is something we should be looking at!

We will also be hosting our annual events. These provide a great way to learn from speakers, but also from your industry colleagues. The networking and sharing of best practices, problem solving and working together is second to none at an AMCO event. Coming up in May, we have the Small Airports and Aerodromes Meeting and the annual Spring Airfield Workshop! Save the dates May 2nd & 3rd for these great events. Thank you to the sponsors of the Workshop – in particular our Presenting Sponsor Tradewind Scientific.

Another great way to learn from each other is to attend the regional airport meetings. People from airports in your region will update on what’s happening at their facility, ask questions, and collectively help each other out.

The AMCO committees have been going strong. The Government Relations committee has scheduled a meeting with the Provincial Minister of Transportation – Minister Caroline Mulroney. We look forward to championing the AMCO Study of Ontario’s Airports and Aerodromes and hope to make progress on the recommendations made within it.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to another life-long learner. Rejeanne Lacroix has joined AMCO in the role of Government and Airports Relations Manager. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge in the areas of government advocacy, stakeholder relations and public policy. We welcome her to the association!

However you choose to be a life long learner – through formal education, professional training courses, or through networking and learning from peers – I hope that 2023 is a year of knowledge and prosperity for each of you.

Sincerely,

Laura McNeice
CEO, AMCO

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Traffic up at Thunder Bay Airport amid renovations

Original Article by Wings, Jan. 2, 2023

[For full article click here](#)

Thunder Bay International Airport has emerged after enduring the COVID pandemic, major infrastructure undertakings and this year's summer passenger crisis at Pearson International Airport.

Work on the \$20.4 million rehabilitation project for the main runway 725 was completed on budget two weeks ahead of schedule. Construction began May 16 for the remediation of all surfaces, storm sewers and lighting. The work was done by four local and two out-of-city contractors throughout the summer.

Airport president and chief executive officer Ed Schmidtke says the runway project was the largest scaled construction project the Airport Authority has ever undertaken and is a feat in itself, and by far their most significant achievement of 2022.

"There were many, many aspects to that job that were beyond the runway itself," said Schmidtke. "It included replacement approach lighting, replacement of subsurface drainage and safety areas to provide a fortified ground for an aircraft should it run off the end of the runway."

Schmidtke acknowledged that travellers at the Thunder Bay International Airport weren't immune to the delays and cancellations caused by labour shortages and a huge influx of post-pandemic travellers at Toronto's Pearson International Airport this year.

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Ports Toronto allies with #NotInMyCity and Toronto Police Service to deliver human trafficking awareness learning to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport staff and partners

Original Article by PortsToronto, Newswire, Jan. 26, 2023
For full article click here

Today, PortsToronto launched a new education program at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to help disrupt human trafficking in Canadian airports in collaboration with #NotInMyCity and the Toronto Police Service (TPS) Human Trafficking Unit.

Founded by country superstar Paul Brandt, #NotInMyCity is a facilitative organization that is raising awareness and taking collective action to prevent, disrupt and end sexual exploitation and trafficking, focusing on children and youth. In the transport sector, #NotInMyCity is a leading partner who is helping address human trafficking across several sectors in Canada, including the aviation industry.

The purpose of the learning program is to provide all airport employees and partners with knowledge and awareness about sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Canada, including the behavioural signs that might indicate an exploited person, and how to get help without putting the concerned individual in harm's way. The course has been designed with aviation expertise and has drawn on international aviation best practices. Members of the public are invited to learn more about the issue by taking a free e-learning course found at notinmycity.ca.concern, as Canadian airports took on \$3.2 billion in debt to continue operations during the pandemic.



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Icelandic budget airline to offer flights to Europe from Hamilton
 Original Article by Amanda Stephenson, Toronto Star, Jan. 10, 2023
 For full article click here

An Icelandic airline is the latest in an increasingly crowded field of startup carriers vying for the hard-earned travel dollars of budget-conscious Canadians.

Reykjavik-based Play — which was founded in 2019 to offer low-cost air service between North America and Europe — announced Tuesday it is expanding to Canada.

The carrier said beginning June 2023, it will offer flights from Canada to 26 European destinations including London, Paris, Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, Brussels, Stockholm, and Gothenburg.

All of the Icelandic airline's new Canadian flights will be offered out of Hamilton International Airport, and all routes will involve an approximately one-hour stop-over at Reykjavik's Keflavik International Airport.

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Porter Airlines' Muskoka service grounds to a halt

Original Article by Rob Cooper, CTV News, Jan. 13, 2023
 For full article click here

Porter Airlines announced it would not be continuing its seasonal service to Muskoka.





The service began in 2019 and was put on hold during the pandemic but resumed last year.

In a statement, the company said it "appreciated working with local tourism and airport partners to promote Muskoka" and that the joint efforts have "contributed to generating broader interest in the region."






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Rates of runway incursions double over the past decade in Canada

Original Article by Craig Momney, Global News, Jan. 17, 2023

[For full article click here](#)

American aviation regulators are investigating after two planes nearly collided on a runway in New York last week, and Canadian safety boards want more measures put in place to prevent close calls from happening here.

A runway incursion is an aviation term for the improper positioning of vehicles, planes or people on any airport runway or its protected area — being in the wrong place at the wrong time, essentially.

The rate of runway incursions is a concern for national airline safety boards, as the number of incidents have doubled over the past decade.

'Not hiding': Transportation minister says Ottawa will be accountable on travel mess

Original Article by Stephanie Taylor, CP24, Jan. 12, 2023.

[For full article click here](#)

Federal Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said Thursday the Liberal government is “not hiding” from the travel debacle that unfolded over the holidays, while airline executives largely blamed the chaos on Mother Nature.

Members of the House of Commons transport committee spent the day grilling corporate and government officials on who bears responsibility for one of the most hectic travel seasons in memory - and how a repeat can be prevented.

In the days before and after Christmas, thousands of passengers saw their flights delayed or cancelled and hundreds more were stranded in Mexico as a winter storm swept across most of Canada.

Labour shortage still a big factor for fewer flights in northeastern Ontario

Original Publication by CBC News, Jan, 6 2023

For more details click here

Mary Bishop, of Espanola, Ont., is retired and loves to travel. But the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have made that more difficult.

In November Bishop booked a cruise to San Diego, but ended up stranded at the Sudbury Airport overnight because her connecting flight to Toronto was cancelled.

Her next adventure will be in Portugal, but she plans to take the bus to Toronto to avoid any potential headaches at the regional airport.

In the summer she also had two friends scheduled to arrive at the Sudbury Airport on the same day. One was coming from San Diego, and the other was flying in from Montreal.

Bishop's friend from Montreal did not arrive on time.

"When she got to the gate to go to Sudbury, they had just closed the gate and they wouldn't let her on the plane," Bishop said. "So they ended up paying for a hotel for her overnight in Toronto."

Jean-Mathieu Chenier, the director of terminal and land development at the Sudbury Airport, said the number of flights to the airport did increase in 2022, but they are not yet at 2019 levels. He expects that to happen by 2024.

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908 Air Cadets take to the skies with a day of flight training

Original Publication by Ken Kellar, Fort Francis Times, Feb. 1, 2023

[For more details click here](#)

It was a beautiful day to be in the air, and the local squadron of air cadets took full advantage of it.

Gathered into one of the maintenance buildings at the Fort Frances Municipal Airports on a frigid January day, members of the 908 Rainy Lake Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron prepared for a day of learning and experience last Saturday thanks to the help of a former officer. The cadets, under the guidance of Lieutenant Marcus Himanen, took to the skies throughout the day to get a better understanding of the craft of flying, from pre-flight preparation to handling the controls of an aircraft, to using visual markers and onboard instruments to aid in navigation, takeoffs and landings. All of this experience is traditionally part and parcel with being a cadet, but as commanding officer Capt. Dawn Gray explained, it's been quite a while since they've been able to get their cadets in the air.

"This is part of their aviation training, familiar flying," she explained.

"We're really excited to be able to do this. They haven't done it since 2020. The last one was out in Dryden, and then before that was 2016, here. The hope is we do every year, but with some of the changes in the program, it's been hard to get the kids up in the air."

Kingston selected as site of new NAV CANADA digital facility

Original Publication by Jessica Foley, Kingstonist, Jan.19, 2023

For more details click here

Kingston has been selected as the site for a digital facility run by NAV CANADA under its multi-year Digital Aerodrome Air Traffic Services (DAATS) program.

“In place of a traditional out-the-window view from flight service stations and air traffic control towers, digital facilities will use high-resolution optical sensors, external microphones, and other sensors to capture what is happening at an airport,” the company said in a media release dated Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023.

“The City of Kingston is excited to be invited to participate in NAV CANADA’s new digital facility program and we look forward to working together to introduce this advanced technology at Kingston Airport,” said Bryan Paterson, Mayor of Kingston. “We believe this collaboration will bring benefits to the aviation community across Canada and Kingston in particular.”

NAV CANADA is a private, not-for-profit company, established in 1996, which provides air traffic control, airport advisory services, weather briefings and aeronautical information services for more than 18 million square kilometres of Canadian domestic and international airspace.



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Air travel in Canada won't be going completely back to normal — possibly ever

Original Article by Ryan Tumilty, National Post, Dec. 23, 2022

[For full article click here](#)

Even after the chaos of the holiday season ends at Canada's airports, flying in Canada could take years to return to pre-pandemic-style convenience, as airlines opt for bigger planes, fewer direct flights and more connections through the country's big airports.

Miserable weather in B.C., Ontario and Quebec were causing major headaches Friday, as Canadians try to make it home for Christmas. WestJet proactively cancelled most of its flights across those three provinces on Friday as snow storms hit both regions.

The airline wasn't alone in its struggles as delays and cancellations piled up in major airports in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. Those major airports could be handling a greater share of the load going forward as small airports across the country say they haven't seen all of their direct flights return.

Johanne Gallant, president and CEO of the Fredericton International Airport, said while Canadians are travelling again, airlines have not restored their flight rosters.

"In fall 2022 capacity from YFC was 71 per cent of our pre-pandemic capacity, and these flights were quite full. Leisure travel demand is solid and business travellers have begun to return," she said. "However, demand currently outstrips capacity. Ultimately, Fredericton needs additional flights to provide the service our community is looking for."

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FlixBus to offer bus service between Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto Pearson Airport

Original Article by Kevin Nielsen, Global News, Jan 24, 2023

[For full article click here](#)

For those living in Waterloo Region looking for alternative methods of getting to Pearson Airport and Toronto, Flixbus has announced that it will soon be providing transportation between the international airport and Kitchener-Waterloo.

The German-based company says buses will run between Waterloo and the airport three days a week with the only stop along the way being in downtown Kitchener.

Hope Air— Lorena's Story

Hope Air supports patients throughout every stage of their journey to wellness by providing full-service travel, including flights, accommodations, meals and ground transportation, we are helping save the lives of patients, like Lorena, in need by getting them to their vital medical appointments.

After a year of unexplained constipation and abdominal pain, followed by many inconclusive medical test results, Lorena had a surgical intervention in Timmins Hospital then she was referred to the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, where she was diagnosed with high-grade serious carcinoma ovarian cancer stage three.

The news shocked the young mother of two boys, who had moved to Northern Ontario from Mexico to be with her husband. The cancer had spread all over her reproductive organs and had migrated to her diaphragm. Her oncologist wanted her to begin an aggressive form of chemotherapy immediately. The treatment needed to be administered every three weeks in Toronto, which was an 11-hour drive away from home.

Driving back home simply wasn't an option for Lorena after receiving treatment. Her husband and brother tried once, but they had to stop after five hours of driving and rest at a hotel overnight. Fortunately, a social worker from Ontario introduced Lorena to Hope Air, whose travel assistance program reduced her travel time to three hours and even allowed her husband to fly with her to her medical appointments—a huge relief.

Lorena has travelled with our commercial airline partners and continues to travel with our volunteer pilots, who support communities that are not well served by commercial airlines. "Without Hope Air, I'd have to borrow money, and I'd probably have to skip some of my appointments. It would have been difficult for me."



Help bridge the distance between home and hospital for Canadians in need.

As a regional airport, you are a hub for Hope Air patients traveling to and from care.

Illnesses often require multiple appointments, requiring car rides of 12+ hours each way. This poses financial challenges and added stress for those who are already facing major illness.

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- Working with Hope Air to drive employee engagement

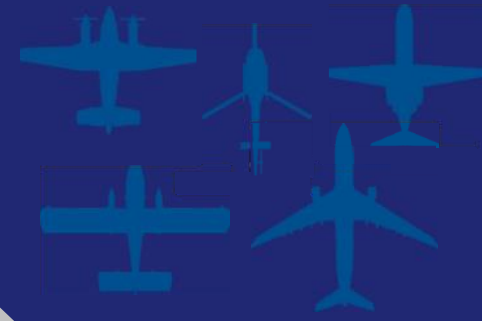
To learn more contact Jon Collins, at jcollins@hopeair.ca

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